

fragments of a series of forms regularly graded like the words of the preceding tables. Bou-eBe, Bou-Be, Fiu, Fieu, Fi, Fe, FaiL, FiL, FiL-G, VaL, VaLeT, FaNT, afFaNT, eNFaNT, eNFaN, afFaN, aFaN, eFaN, eFoN, MeNioT, MeNeGe, MaiNaChé, G-aR-ChéeN, GaRChouN, GaeChoN, GaiChoN, GouGeaT, GouiaT, Gouia, GaRCouN, GaRCoN, GaSSoN, HiL, and an abnormal form DRoLei, belonging to some other series, or to a part of this series too distant to appear more than this once among the French patois; in fact a word bearing the same relation to the English DRoLL that FiL does to FooL, that Boube does to Booby (German Bube, Boy), &c. &c. The most interesting point of this series is the change of FiL to HiL, through some lost form H'FiL or G.FiL, the reverse of which still remains in FiL-G, MeNaGe, &c. This lost form is found in other languages; as in the Dshar Lesguis Caucasian KiMiR, Child, contracted in Hungarian (as in French patois) to Gi'eR-mek, child. In the Lesguis Antshong and Chunsagh, on the contrary, we have TiMiR, the original, so to speak (through Ti'eR), of the French patois DRoLei; as in the Georgian Suaneti we have BoBosh (Imeritian Boshi) to explain the French patois BouBe, a contracted repetition of the original Hebrew form BaR-BaR, the diminutive of BaR, boy.

Stated Meeting, November 18, 1859.

Present, eighteen members.

Dr. WOOD, President, in the Chair.

Judge Carleton, a new member, was presented by Dr. Bache.

A letter was read from Dr. W. A. Hammond, U. S. A. dated Fort Mackinaw, Michigan, Nov. 5, 1859, acknowledging notice of his election.

The following donations for the Library were announced:—

- Journal Franklin Institute, No. 407. (Nov.)—*From the Institute.*
 African Repository, XXXV. No. 11. (Nov.)—*From A. C. Society.*
 Columbia College Annual Catalogue. 1859-60.—*From the College.*
 Inau. Addresses by T. W. Dwight and G. P. Marsh.—*From the same.*
 Pasigraphie mittels arabischer Zahlzeichen. Ein versuch von Moses Paic. Semlin, 1859.—*From the Author.*
 Natural Philosophy, by B. Hobson, M. D. London Miss. Society, Canton, China; in Chinese, unbound.—*From Dr. F. Bache.*

The death of M. Guillaume Theophile Tilesius (elected 1819), a member of this Society, was announced by Dr. Bache.

On motion of Dr. Bache, the following biographical notice of John Reynell, read June 17, by Dr. B. H. Coates, was ordered to be printed:—

The writer of this was, a few years since, invited by a deceased president, to furnish to this Society a brief notice of the above named member, for preservation in the archives. He has done so, in part out of reverence for the wishes of the distinguished individual alluded to, but also partly from a conviction that it is useful and honourable, in associated bodies, to procure and retain such memoirs. “*Stare super antiquas vias*” is pre-eminently the motto of learned incorporations; and, if it be thought to contain within it much that is objectionable, let us not fail to gather from it its proper and praiseworthy fruits; among which are stability, moderation, impartiality, and the opportunity of benefitting by the example, for good and evil, of those who have preceded us.

John Reynell was the son of Samuel and Sarah Reynell, and was born at Bristol, England, June 15, 1708, old style; but was brought up at Exeter, in Devonshire, the residence of many of his relatives, at which individuals among them continued to reside after his death. His family was, at one time, of some note;* and several branches of it are said still to hold liege landed possessions. He was designed and educated for a merchant; and was sent, in a commercial capacity, to reside in the Island of Jamaica, at the early age of eighteen years. His advisers appear to have set as high a valuation on the activity of youth as is done at the present day; and Young England, in him, to have not been inferior in enterprise to Young America.

He was at that time under strong religious impressions. At his removal to Jamaica, he is found a member of the religious Society of Friends, in which it is inferred that he had been educated. He was diligent in the attendances expected of him in his religious connexion, and in efforts to obviate breaches of morality which he believed to be

* Barbe's Commoners; IV. pp. 446, 456. &c.; and Fuller's Worthies, Article Devonshire. Sir Richard Reynell defended the City of Exeter and Launcester Castle for Richard Cœur de Lion, against Prince John, afterwards King John Lackland. Sir Hugh Reynell was a Master and Governor (not to be confused with Grand Master) among the Knights of St. John of Jerusalem, A. D. 1275; and the small harbour of Port Renelle, in the Island of Malta, received its name from this Knight, and still retained it in 1838.

too much indulged in the island. These were chiefly connected with slavery, illicit intercourse, and intemperance. He was not an unqualified opponent of slavery in all cases and under all circumstances; and retained one slave with him in the United States to a very advanced age, tolerating and comforting many infirmities and eccentricities. The efforts and remonstrances of John Reynell in Jamaica were not well received; and it was in consequence of this that he ultimately settled in Philadelphia in 1728.

In our city, he soon acquired the confidence of his acquaintance, after a moderate interval, a solid and commanding character, and, finally, a rapid success. After another interval he assumed a style of liberal hospitality, and maintained a large establishment; and he closed by an adequate provision for those dependent on him, damaged only by the derangements in business caused by the war of the revolution. By far the most important of these was the receipt of debts in paper money; Reynell, in common with all Quakers, and many others, not being willing to descend to the payment of his own obligations in the same imaginary representative of value.

John Reynell was not an ambitious man; and by no means betrayed eagerness to have his name frequently before the public in connection with politics or corporate bodies. It occurs in but few instances, and he seems to have acted on the principle ascribed to Cosmo de Medici and President Jackson, never to seek for public office, but only to accept it when the undeniable wish of their fellow citizens. He may have been of opinion that his time was better bestowed, first, upon his private affairs, and then upon institutions in such limited number that he might feel confident of giving adequate attention to the service of them all; rather than upon a diffused mass of objects, exposing him to the risk or certainty of occasional neglects. I have found records of him in only two or three of the incorporations of the city. Of these, two were literary, and the third, charitable, the American Philosophical Society, the School Corporation established by Penn, and the Pennsylvania Hospital.

Of the body I have now the honour to address, he was a foundation member; having been elected to the branch styled "The American Philosophical Society," and of which the president was Governor Hamilton, January 26, 1768; and becoming a member of the joint society by the union of the two original bodies, January 2, 1769. By this election of a man of sixty years of age, and much occupied with private business and the affairs of a religious body, and that during the short interval between the stamp act troubles and the more imme-

diate movements towards a civil war, it is not likely that the Society expected direct labours in the way of philosophical research. It is a high and valuable testimony of esteem for the man, and implies the ascription of character and influence.

The corporation of "Overseers of the Public Schools founded by Charter, in the Town and County of Philadelphia," but supported exclusively by private munificence, has never appeared to court popular applause, but has been long known to many among us for unobtrusive usefulness. It is not forgotten in the maintenance of a series of schools, distributed through the city, and intended for the instruction of the middle classes, as well as for the education of a number of the poor, whose reception of assistance from charitable funds was kept a profound secret even from themselves. So careful have been the Overseers to preserve that self respect of the unfortunate which has been deemed by philosophers the best safeguard against the increase of pauperism, that, in place of enjoining, as has been the case in some parts of the world, the observance of an absurd, ugly, antiquated and ridiculous uniform, care was taken, on the other hand, that no peculiarity of dress should distinguish them from their more prosperous companions; and if necessary, the parents of these children were aided in procuring for them the materials for a decent and respectable appearance. The institution was also known for the support of a Latin and Greek Seminary, which, till a period not far remote, was acknowledged to be the best preparatory school for college in this part of the United States. A learned and eminent writer in an inland town, has lately stated to a sister society that he had not heard much of the eminent men educated at it. There has been, until about the last thirty years, but little of what was eminent in our city that did not owe an important part of its education to the Quaker School, in Fourth Street; and in many cases, it furnished all, with the exception of professional instruction. It is not universally known that it furnished many courses of lectures on popular science, and carried its care for astronomy and its liberality in the supply of instruments, and the employment of observers so far as to furnish, for many years, the only observations made in this country, fit to regulate ships' chronometers. For this I quote the report of a Committee of the Councils of New York. It has not found equally favourable notice in some of the histories of astronomical labours in this city.

John Reynell was made a member of this body October 8, 1742. He became Treasurer in 1760; and his services, and those of his predecessor, John Kinsley, furnish a curious instance of the customs

of the men and of the time, and perhaps a lesson not without utility at the present day. I have collected it from a careful examination of the minutes of the board. Kinsley had fallen into the slow illness which was ultimately the cause of his death. His habit of mutual and implicit confidence with the board, together with his illness, had occasioned his accounts to grow a little behind hand in settlement; but instead of this giving rise to the retention of money belonging to the Institution, as has been charged in some well known instances, it had the reverse effect of inducing him to advance his own funds for the public service. In the first instance, friendship, and afterwards the instructions of the board, induced John Reynell to assist him, both by settling his accounts for him, and by advancing Reynell's funds for the common service; both of them feeling that the charitable and educational institution must not be allowed to suffer. At length, on the demise of the old and confidential Treasurer, a minute of respect and regret was recorded; but no successor was appointed, and business, when occasion offered, was only referred to John Reynell to fulfil the duties which belonged to that office, until, at length, and as if accidentally, repeated recognitions of him in that capacity had taken place. It may be fairly asked whether modern changes in such habits have given rise to much improvement.

Of the Pennsylvania Hospital, John Reynell was also Treasurer, and was the original one, having been elected during the organization, July 1, 1751, new style. At the annual election, in 1752, he was removed from the Treasurer's office, to be made a manager; and his place was supplied, in the prior capacity, by Charles Norris. We may imagine that he here also acted upon the principle of not undertaking too many duties; and he may have thought that the Treasurership, which he had been exercising in the manner we have just described for the previous two years, was sufficient. He was continued manager for twenty-eight years, and for the last twenty-three of them as President. He declined re-election at the annual meeting in 1780.

During the troubles which preceded the revolutionary war, John Reynell acted in a manner consistent with his character. He was a whig who disapproved of civil war. His name appears signed to the Address of the Merchants of Philadelphia to the people of the Colonies, against the Stamp Act. Deeply imbued with a sense of the destructive tendency of all military struggles, and of opinion, as he repeated it, that the worst of all wars is a civil war, he could not in any way promote the sanguinary struggle with England. In peaceable resistance, on the other hand, he was active and persevering; and he

believed it possible, by non-consumption of British manufactures, to compel a just respect to colonial rights. The present writer does not here enlarge upon this fruitful topic. Much may be said in favour of peaceable resistance; and to show that, if the United States had not been separated from England, it would have been preposterous for the latter power to pretend to tyrannize over them, that many valuable sources of advantages would have been preserved, enormous destruction avoided, and that at a day not far removed from the present time, the gigantic colony would have superseded the parent as effectually as Syracuse did Corinth, Carthage Tyre, Athens the Egyptian or the Hellenic Thebes, or Rome Alba Longa.

John Reynell remained in Philadelphia during the whole war, and preserved the respect of every one, but was certainly not in the war to achieve political glory. Commerce was effectually superseded by the blockades and hostile occupation of the city; and when peace was restored, the energies of a man of seventy-three years of age could not be expected to push it to any active rivalry with younger men. Three or four years before the close, he took a nephew of his wife into partnership; and some two years later, transferred the remainder of his business to his younger partner. His death took place by a gradual decline of about four months, with little definite disease, and which terminated September 3, 1782. In his last confinement he was attended by his friends Drs. Kuhn and Foulke.

He was married, April 15, 1756, to Mary Nicholas, widow of Samuel Nicholas, and daughter of Thomas and Beulah Coates. By this connexion, he had four daughters and a son; all of whom, however, died in early infancy, except a daughter who nearly attained the age of fifteen years. Mr. John F. Watson records the death of this young lady by drowning, in that branch of Dock Creek which crossed Chesnut street below Fourth street, near or at the ruinous bridge. Mr. Watson is unable to give me his authority for this. I find no mention of it in the newspapers of the time; the reports of the grand juries are not easy of access; and I have no tradition of the circumstance. The record in the family bible merely relates that she died "early in the morning."

As far as has been gathered from incidental indications, John Reynell appears to have been of the middle size, of considerable bodily powers, very good health, and a dignified and imposing aspect. His manner was grave, quiet and somewhat taciturn. His signature is bold and masculine; and resembles that of John Hancock. There is no portrait of him. Although conforming to the requirements of

the religious body of Friends, in preserving a plain appearance and using sober colours, he did not observe any peculiar dress, or deviate in any remarkable degree from the custom of the time. He used snuff and smoking tobacco freely. He did not advocate abstinence from wine, or even from ardent spirits; but was earnest in enforcing moderation and temperance.

His mind, naturally endowed with great energy and decision, was cultivated upon antique models; and he had read history, "*Stare super antiquas vias,*" though not quoted, was evidently the basis of the acquired part of his character. He was not without prejudice in favour of birth, and advised a young person to connect himself with "a good stock." He had great confidence in character; aimed at it himself, and praised it and confided in it when met with in others. He was eminently moderate, steady and permanent in all his views. This extended to commerce, which he considered as the business of a man's life, and a thing that ought to be habitual. He does not seem to have aimed at accumulating a large fortune. This is shown by his liberal housekeeping, and the extent of his contributions to charity. During his last illness, it was unexpectedly discovered that, in addition to liberal contributions of every sort, he had, for many years, distributed among the poor an amount equal to one half of all his expenses of living, in absolute and total secrecy.

Commerce was steady and profitable; speculation scarcely existed; and there were no banks. But he was equally liberal of his time in the service of others. Besides the secret investigations of poverty just alluded to, and the service of institutions, he was more remarked for healing differences among his neighbours and acquaintance than perhaps any other man, and his awards were almost always adopted as decisive.

His personal influence was very great; and several of our most eminent citizens placed their sons with him, to live in his house, according to the custom of the times, in order to acquire a knowledge and the habits of commerce. Among these élves were Dr. George Logan and the noted Timothy Matlack.

John Reynell had read extensively; was by no means indisposed to wit and satire, and valued the writings of Swift. He was aware of the value of science, as may be judged from his adhesion to this Society; and his name appears among the subscribers to our first volume.

At his death the most honorary mention of his usefulness and high

character was made public from the most diverse sources; and the general love of the citizens attended him to the grave.

Pending nomination No. 394 was read.

No quorum for the enacting of laws being present, the special business of the evening was again postponed; and on motion of Mr. Foulke, the Secretary was instructed to give special notice of the fact to each of the members and request a punctual attendance at the next meeting.

The records of the last meeting of the Board of Officers and Members of Council were read.

On motion of Dr. Harris, the Committee on the Hall were instructed to place a new carpet on the hall floor.

And the Society was adjourned.

Stated Meeting, December 2, 1859.

Present, thirty-three members.

Dr. WOOD, President, in the Chair.

The Hon. Wm. B. Reed was presented by Mr. Fraley.

The following donations for the Library were announced:—

Gould's Astronomical Journal. No. 129.—*From the Editor.*
 Jour. Soc. Arts and of the I. in U. May, 1859. Lond.—*From the Soc.*
 Das Astronom. Diagram; von Dr. Prestel, 1859.—*From Dr. Wilson.*
 Academic Fallacies by H. Coppée, Phil. 1859. 8vo. p.—*From the Aut.*

The reading of Mr. Durand's obituary notice of Mr. Nuttall was postponed to the next meeting.

The death of Washington Irving, aged 76 (elected a member April 17, 1829), at his residence, Sunnyside, on the Hudson river, Nov. 28, 1859, was announced by Dr. Bache, and on motion of Dr. Elwyn, Prof. Coppée was requested to prepare an obituary notice of the deceased.

Mr. Dubois offered for the inspection of the Society, two of the golden images lately found in the Indian graves, at Chiriqui, in Central America. Both of them have been assayed at the Mint, and they are reserved as a part of the Mint Cabinet. The one of reptile form is